

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 4, 6 and 8-16 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) An electronic purchase system for providing a place where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate, comprising:
  - a storage unit storing sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers;
  - a purchaser registration unit registering at least one ~~or more purchasers~~ of the plurality of purchasers; and
  - a publication unit making ~~public~~ the sales-related information public to purchasers registered by said purchaser registration unit.
2. (original) The electronic purchase system according to claim 1, wherein the sales-related information is set for each purchaser company by the seller.
3. (original) The electronic purchase system according to claim 1, wherein information registered in said purchaser registration unit is updated based on a trade between the seller and each purchaser.
4. (currently amended) An electronic purchase system for providing a place where a purchaser and a plurality of sellers participate, comprising:
  - a seller registration unit registering at least one ~~or more sellers~~ of the plurality of sellers;
  - a reception unit receiving a request related to a trade of a commodity from the purchaser;
  - and
  - a publication unit making public the request only to sellers registered by said seller registration unit.
5. (original) The electronic purchase system according to claim 4, wherein information registered in said seller registration unit is updated based on a trade between the purchaser and each seller.

6. (currently amended) An electronic purchase system for providing a place where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate, comprising:

a storage unit storing sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers and is individually set for at least one or more purchasers of the ~~plurality of purchasers~~; and

a publication unit making public the sales-related information to the plurality of purchasers.

7. (original) The electronic purchase system according to claim 6, wherein the sales-related information is updated based on a trade between the seller and each purchaser.

8. (currently amended) An electronic purchase method for providing a place where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate, comprising:

inputting sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers;

registering at least one or more purchasers of the ~~plurality of purchasers~~ according to an instruction from the seller; and

making public the sales-related information to the registered purchasers.

9. (currently amended) An electronic purchase method for providing a place where a purchaser and a plurality of sellers participate, comprising:

registering at least one or more sellers of the ~~plurality of sellers~~ according to an instruction from the purchaser;

receiving a request related to a trade of a commodity from the purchaser; and

making public the request to the registered sellers.

10. (currently amended) An electronic purchase method for providing a place where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate, comprising:

inputting sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers and is individually set for at least one or more purchasers of the ~~plurality of purchasers~~; and

making public the sales-related information to the plurality of purchasers.

11. (currently amended) A storage medium storing a program executed by a computer; the program to perform a method comprising:

~~a code for~~ providing a place where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate;

~~a code for receiving sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers;~~  
~~a code for registering at least one or more purchasers of the plurality of purchasers~~  
according to an instruction from the seller; and  
~~a code for making public the sales-related information to the registered purchasers.~~

12. (currently amended) A storage medium storing a program executed by a computer;  
the program to perform a method comprising:

~~a code for providing a place where a purchaser and a plurality of sellers participate;~~  
~~a code for registering at least one or more sellers of the plurality of sellers according to~~  
an instruction from the purchaser;  
~~a code receiving a request related to a trade of a commodity from the purchaser; and~~  
~~a code for making public the request to the registered sellers.~~

13. (currently amended) A storage medium storing a program executed by a computer;  
the program to perform a method comprising:

~~a code for providing a place where a seller and a plurality of purchasers participate;~~  
~~a code for receiving sales-related information about a commodity that the seller offers~~  
and is individually set for at least one or more purchasers of the plurality of purchasers from the  
purchaser; and  
making public the sales-related information to the plurality of purchasers.

14. (currently amended) ~~A trade support~~ The electronic purchase system for supporting  
~~a commodity trade between a seller and a purchaser using a network~~ according to claim 1,  
further comprising:

a management unit managing a past trade amount of each purchaser; and  
a discount unit discounting a trade price if a total or average trade amount of a purchaser  
for a past specific period exceeds a specific value, when the purchaser purchases a commodity  
from the seller.

15. (currently amended) ~~The trade support~~ electronic purchase system according to  
claim 14, wherein a discount amount reduced from a current trade price is calculated based on a  
trade amount of the purchaser for a past specific period.

16. (currently amended) The ~~trade support~~ electronic purchase system according to claim 14, wherein the total or average trade amount is a total or average trade amount between a seller and a purchaser in the current trade for a past specific period.